

ARKANSAS BROILER HATCHERY



ARKANSAS
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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ARKANSAS CHICK PLACEMENTS DOWN SLIGHTLY FROM LAST YEAR

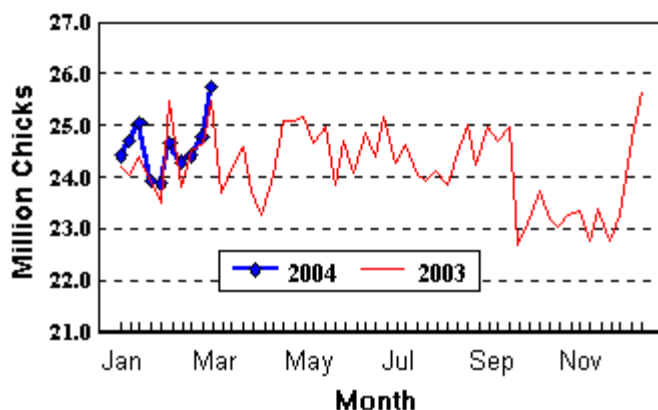
Broiler-type chicks placed for meat production in Arkansas was 25.8 million during the week ending March 6, 2004. Placements were down slightly from the comparable week in 2003, but up 4 percent from the revised previous week, and included 3.5 million chicks shipped in from other states. Cumulative placements from December 28, 2003 through March 6, 2004 were 246.2 million, up slightly from the same period a year earlier.

The broiler-type chicks hatched for the week was 25.6 million, up 2 percent both from the corresponding week a year earlier, and also from the previous week. Of the total hatch, 3.0 million chicks were shipped out of the state. Average hatchability for chicks hatched was 82.3 percent.

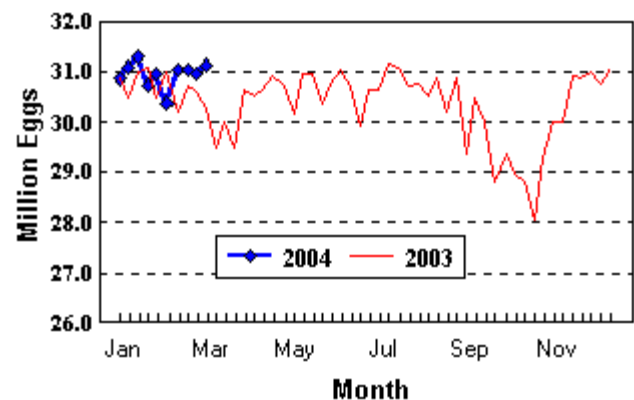
Arkansas hatcheries set 31.2 million broiler-type eggs during the week ending March 6, 2004, up 3 percent from the same period last year, and up 1 percent from the previous week.

Week Ending	NET PLACEMENTS			CHICKS HATCHED			EGGS SET		
	2003	2004	% Change	2003	2004	% Change	2003	2004	% Change
	<i>1,000</i>			<i>1,000</i>			<i>1,000</i>		
Jan. 31	23,524	23,910	102	25,325	25,719	102	30,468	30,944	102
Feb. 7	25,475	24,701	97	25,519	25,821	101	30,994	30,374	98
Feb. 14	23,806	24,306	102	25,709	25,491	99	30,194	31,055	103
Feb. 21	24,509	24,458	100	25,149	25,694	102	30,762	31,033	101
Feb. 28	24,680	24,831	101	25,645	25,002	97	30,603	30,948	101
Mar. 6	25,491	25,759	101	25,042	25,559	102	30,315	31,160	103

CHICKS PLACED IN ARKANSAS, 2003-2004



EGGS SET, 2003 - 2004



BROILER EGGS SET AND CHICKS PLACED IN 19 MAJOR STATES BY WEEKS, 2004

STATE	EGGS SET (in Thousands)					CHICKS PLACED (in Thousands)						
	Week Ending				1/ %	Week Ending						1/ %
	14-Feb	21-Feb	28-Feb	06-Mar		31-Jan	07-Feb	14-Feb	21-Feb	28-Feb	06-Mar	
Alabama	29,598 *	29,778	30,416	30,426	109	22,264	21,502	21,695	20,929	21,906	21,665	99
ARKANSAS	31,055	31,033	30,948	31,160	103	23,910	24,701	24,306	24,458	24,831 *	25,759	101
Delaware	3,703	2,976	3,091	3,085	87	5,369	4,730	4,183	5,126	4,512	4,145	88
Florida	1,354	1,363	1,359	1,359	83	1,603	1,859	1,689	1,956	1,425	1,695	94
Georgia	33,138 *	33,334	33,352	32,686	101	25,636	25,821	25,613	25,969	26,370	26,205	107
Kentucky	7,013	7,034	6,945 *	7,016	104	5,254	5,582	4,545	5,642	6,228 *	5,730	100
Maryland	8,930	8,846	8,854	8,861	88	5,461	5,657	6,394	5,302	5,815	6,312	120
Mississippi	19,229	19,179	19,061	19,219	101	16,402	16,598	16,309	16,524	16,379	16,404	105
N. Carolina	18,395 *	18,610	18,615	18,437	98	14,303	14,056	14,246	14,067	14,229	14,409	101
Oklahoma	6,357	6,519	6,430 *	6,516	101	5,250	4,902	4,916	4,369	4,842 *	4,087	112
Pennsylvania	3,611	3,693	3,755	3,764	105	2,532	2,646	2,676	2,502	2,641	2,651	107
S. Carolina	3,488	3,767	3,810	3,781	79	4,204	4,162	4,154	4,154	3,795	3,980	83
Texas	14,976	14,949	15,032	15,015	102	12,098	12,165	12,172	12,211	12,107	12,269	102
Virginia	6,308	6,417	6,520	6,544	98	4,751	5,634	5,099	4,925	4,890	5,093	87
CA,LA,MO,TN,WV	20,965	21,191	21,722 *	21,578	104	19,061	18,897	18,858	18,508	18,388 *	18,747	107
Total 2004	208,120 *	208,689	209,910 *	209,447		168,098	168,912	166,855	166,642	168,358 *	169,151	
Total 2003	202,449	204,584	206,547	207,539		166,420	164,887	165,871	164,469	163,548	165,230	
%Prev. Year	103	102	102	101		101	102	101	101	103	102	
Approximate Marketing Date 2004.....						20-Mar	27-Mar	03-Apr	10-Apr	17-Apr	24-Apr	

* Revised. 1/ Current week as percent of the same week last year.

EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES UP 1 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-state weekly program set 209 million eggs during the week ending March 6, 2004. This was up 1 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 83 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

BROILER CHICKS PLACED UP 2 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-state weekly program placed 169 million chicks for meat production during the week ending March 6, 2004. Placements were up 2 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 28, 2003 through March 6, 2004 were 1.68 billion, up 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.